



TESTIMONY OF
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VICE PRESIDENT AND ECONOMIST
CONNECTICUT BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 23, 2016
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Good day. My name is Pete Gioia. I am the economist for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA). CBIA represents thousands of firms, which employ hundreds of thousands women and men in Connecticut. Our membership includes firms of all sizes and types, the vast majority of which are small businesses with fewer than 50 people.

CBIA supports and would like to comment upon SB 114, and SB 108 as well as accelerating and improving rebalancing long term care services in Connecticut.

Medicaid is the single most costly line item in the state budget and long term care is the costliest part of Medicaid. We will never control our state budget until we better control Medicaid costs. These dollars support our most vulnerable citizens with vital services. But, we continue to overly rely upon the most costly ways to direct these services when almost always clients prefer less expensive options like home care. We have both an aging population and a real budget crisis so time is running out to take control in this area.

SB 114 would make it easier for clients to be approved to access home and community based services, which cost about half as much as institutional care. HB 108 will allow for improvements at residential care homes which ought to be able to be provided with a fraction of the savings of more home care vs. nursing home care within existing appropriations.

In addition, there is a need to amend any of your long term care bills to include the recommendations of the recent study on rebalancing long term care by the CT21 organization. These recommendations will allow for a more effective and speedy way to get to 75/25 home care services or more before 2025 avoiding \$657 million in costs for the state. The study is attached.

CBIA has always supported government that works. These efforts will promote new thinking and better planning in our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.